

# Lifelines

Spring 2023

For supporters of  
**ELCA WORLD HUNGER AND  
LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**  
[ELCA.org/hunger](https://elca.org/hunger) • [ELCA.org/disaster](https://elca.org/disaster)

**2022**  
**Year in Review**



ELCA  
World Hunger



The Rev.  
Daniel Rift  
Director,  
ELCA World  
Hunger  
and Lutheran  
Disaster  
Response  
Funding



Marie Anne  
Sliwinski  
Senior Director,  
Building Resilient  
Communities



ELCA World Hunger

“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew  
their strength, they shall mount up with wings  
like eagles, they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.”

(Isaiah 40:31)

In my first letter for a “LifeLines” newsletter, almost 15 years ago, I wrote that we were standing at the crossroads between hunger and hope. I was convinced then that hope is winning, and I continue to hold that conviction because of you – the faithful partners in our work toward a just world where all are fed.

**In 2022 gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response approached \$46 million, the largest combined total of all time. Thank you!**

We live in a time when hope might seem the road less traveled. Around the globe, climate change, political unrest, a record number of displaced people, and food systems taxed by a global pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine are all driving hunger and poverty. Yet closer examination reveals that the less-traveled road of hope is an ever-widening one that holds inspiring surprises we can celebrate together.

**Just in the last year, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response were at work in 76 countries and 43 U.S. states and territories.**

After many years of working in the church to address hunger, I am still confident in the promise that “hope abides.” Through the vocations and creativity of individuals, congregations, companions and partners around the world, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response are at work doing just that – providing fresh food through community gardens in Brazil, advocating for stronger policies to address the root causes of hunger here in the United States, improving incomes for families in Lebanon, providing fistula surgeries for women in South Sudan and rebuilding after the earthquake in Nepal five years on. Thank you for answering God’s invitation to share in this work.

With thanks for your ministry and partnership,

The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Funding

## ON THE COVER

Lydia (standing) is a graduate of Empowered Girls, a partner of ELCA World Hunger in Tanzania. Lydia now serves as an Empowered Girls mentor in several schools to inspire and equip girls to live their dreams.

## How to give

### Online

[ELCA.org/hunger/donate](https://elca.org/hunger/donate)  
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### Phone

800-638-3522

### Mail

Make checks payable to  
“ELCA World Hunger” or  
“Lutheran Disaster Response”  
and mail to:

ELCA  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

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[disaster@elca.org](mailto:disaster@elca.org)

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## **ELCA WORLD HUNGER**

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Rocheli Wachholz Bonow

Tatiane in her garden

## Harvesting hope for the future

**T**atiane, now 24 years old and a mother of one, remembers eating primarily rice and beans as a child in her rural Kilombola community in southern Brazil. Rice and beans are staples for the Kilombola, but Tatiane and her family didn't have much variety beyond those foods. As Tatiane shared, "We didn't know what lettuce was."

Tatiane and those living in Kilombola communities are descendants of Afro-Brazilian enslaved people who fled cities and farms to live together and start new communities during the 18th and 19th centuries. As a result, they have remained largely isolated from the rest of Brazilian society. They have struggled against inequality and neglect for centuries, often lacking such basic needs as running water, sanitation and health services.

A Brazilian partner of ELCA World Hunger helps Kilombola people claim their legal rights to basic public services by incorporating their communities as towns. This step empowers



You support programs, including agricultural training, that help people facing hunger, homelessness and other challenges to get jobs, increase their earning potential and break the cycle of poverty for good.

families to access schools for their children and the transportation needed to get there. This work, made possible in part by your generosity, doesn't stop there.


The trust built from these initial efforts enables ELCA World Hunger to further support the Kilombola as they build sustainable livelihoods and a healthier future for their communities. For Tatiane this meant agricultural training and a space for selling her surplus crops at the local market.

Tatiane was nervous at first about taking her products to market, but participating in the project has increased her confidence. "I used to be super shy, but now I love being at the fair to meet our customers and tell them that the food I'm selling comes from my garden," she said.

Much of the food grown in Tatiane's garden feeds fellow Kilombola families, increasing healthy options for the whole community. Families such as Tatiane's have access to a vast array of healthy and fresh foods in addition to the shelf-stable rice and beans they remember from childhood. Their hard work now provides potatoes, sweet potatoes, lettuce, parsley, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, beetroot, carrot, onion, orange, bergamot, strawberry, guava, bananas, various seasonings, pepper, pumpkins and tomatoes. Having access to a diverse diet with many nutrient-rich options is a key step toward food security and long-term well-being.

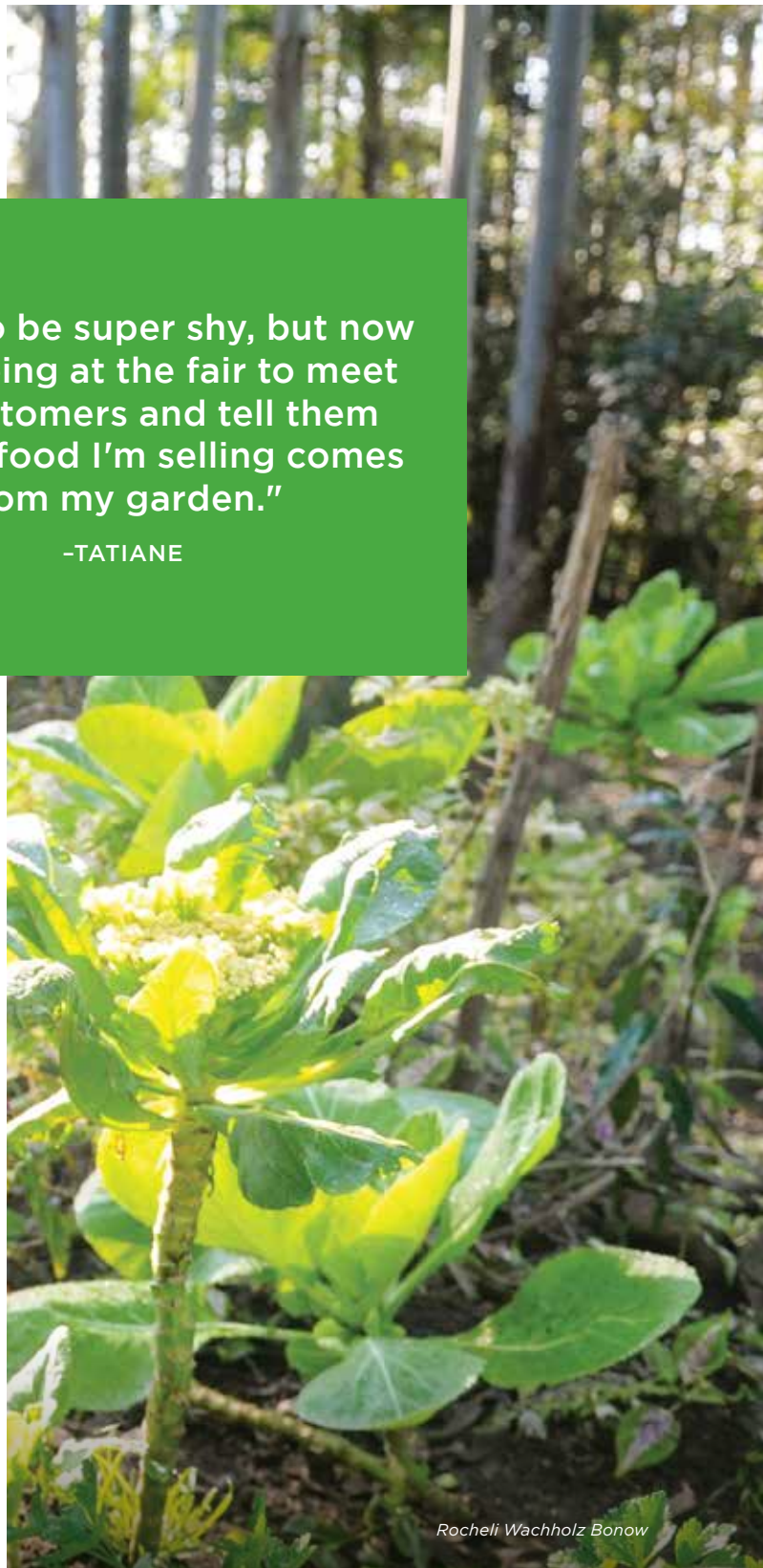
"Today we have pretty much everything here in the community, just needing a few things from outside," Tatiane shared. "If we want to make lunch or dinner, we just go to the vegetable garden to get what is needed." Tatiane is hopeful about her future opportunities now that her garden is thriving, and grateful to be able to provide her own community with a variety of nutritious foods.

ELCA World Hunger partners accompany communities such as the Kilombola all over the world. Tatiane's story is a prime example of how we journey with neighbors around the globe: we start with relationships and listen to community leaders so we can support their efforts toward sustainable, long-term solutions. Thank you for your faithful partnership in this work.



**"I used to be super shy, but now I love being at the fair to meet our customers and tell them that the food I'm selling comes from my garden."**

**-TATIANE**



*Rocheli Wachholz Bonow*



Rice Street Gardens

## “When I plant my vegetables I feel at home.”

**R**ice Street Gardens in St. Paul, Minn., is the second-largest community garden in the state, with over 250 plots for local families. Your generosity to ELCA World Hunger, paired with the hard work of gardeners and volunteers, enables this garden to thrive. Each gardener contributes by volunteering during the year, keeping it clean and well-organized, and donating money to buy supplies. In exchange they get to enjoy time in the garden and all the fresh veggies they grow.

A gardener at Rice Street, Elodie came to Minnesota as a refugee from the Congo five years ago. Living in Minnesota was hard for her and her daughter; they were lonely and had trouble finding jobs. One day the Rev. Dana K. Nelson, pastor of Galilee Lutheran Church, visited Elodie at her home and invited her to join Rice Street Gardens, within walking distance of her apartment.

Elodie accepted. Now she grows all kinds of vegetables at Rice Street and cooks them every day for herself and her daughter. In fact Elodie has so many vegetables that she can keep her freezer full all winter. Yet to Elodie the garden means more than this. “When I plant my

vegetables I feel at home,” she said. “I feel like I have the food from my country.”

At the garden Elodie met a young man named Grace, who also came to the United States as a refugee from the Congo. Grace grows vegetables that he remembers from the Congo, especially a dark, leafy green called cassava leaves. Grace and Elodie tend each other’s gardens, and Elodie even keeps vegetables for Grace in her freezer so that he can have them to eat during winter too.

Rice Street Gardens provides a place where newcomers to the United States, such as Grace, Elodie and her daughter, are welcomed and find connections. They can make new friends; stay connected to their food, culture and people; and find ways to support their neighbors, just as Elodie does by storing Grace’s vegetables in her freezer.

The gardeners and volunteers supported in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are growing more than food – they are planting seeds for the kind of world God wants for us, a world where everyone has enough to eat, food they love, support when they need it and a strong community that welcomes and loves them.



Feeding ministries provide immediate support to those in need. Community gardens and agricultural programs help communities grow food to nourish themselves and build stronger communities.

## Women reviving the local economy

In Akkar, a region of northern Lebanon, there is great potential for farming, but the area has been underserved for some time. Many people in Akkar live without access to basic necessities such as electricity and running water. Residents of the area call it “the forgotten north” because the lack of sufficient opportunities and resources means they struggle to maintain a steady source of income.

The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), helped by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, has been working to train women in Akkar to make such products as jams, spice mixes, olives, stuffed grape leaves and other local foods and to sell them in their communities and beyond. The training from MECC enables these women to create sustainable incomes for themselves and their families. The women of the area are not used to going outside their villages, so this project has been a significant opportunity for them to not only learn new skills but also gain access to larger markets for their products.

Julie, one of the women who participated in MECC’s program, had already been trained to make jarred and dried food and skin care products. In the next phase of the project, also supported in part by your generosity to ELCA World Hunger, she learned best practices for sterilizing, packaging and labeling her products for sale. “I joined the project to gain experience and to develop my skills,” Julie shared. “This has helped me to learn and has opened a lot of nice opportunities.”

Akkar is a gateway to neighboring Syria, which makes the region susceptible to illegal trafficking of goods that stifles local economies. The MECC project aims to revive the agricultural movement in the area and enable farmers to sell some of their harvest while providing women with the opportunity to sell their self-made products.

The women have also received some training in marketing their projects through exhibitions and social media. The use of QR codes has helped their outreach tremendously, enabling them to find more customers.



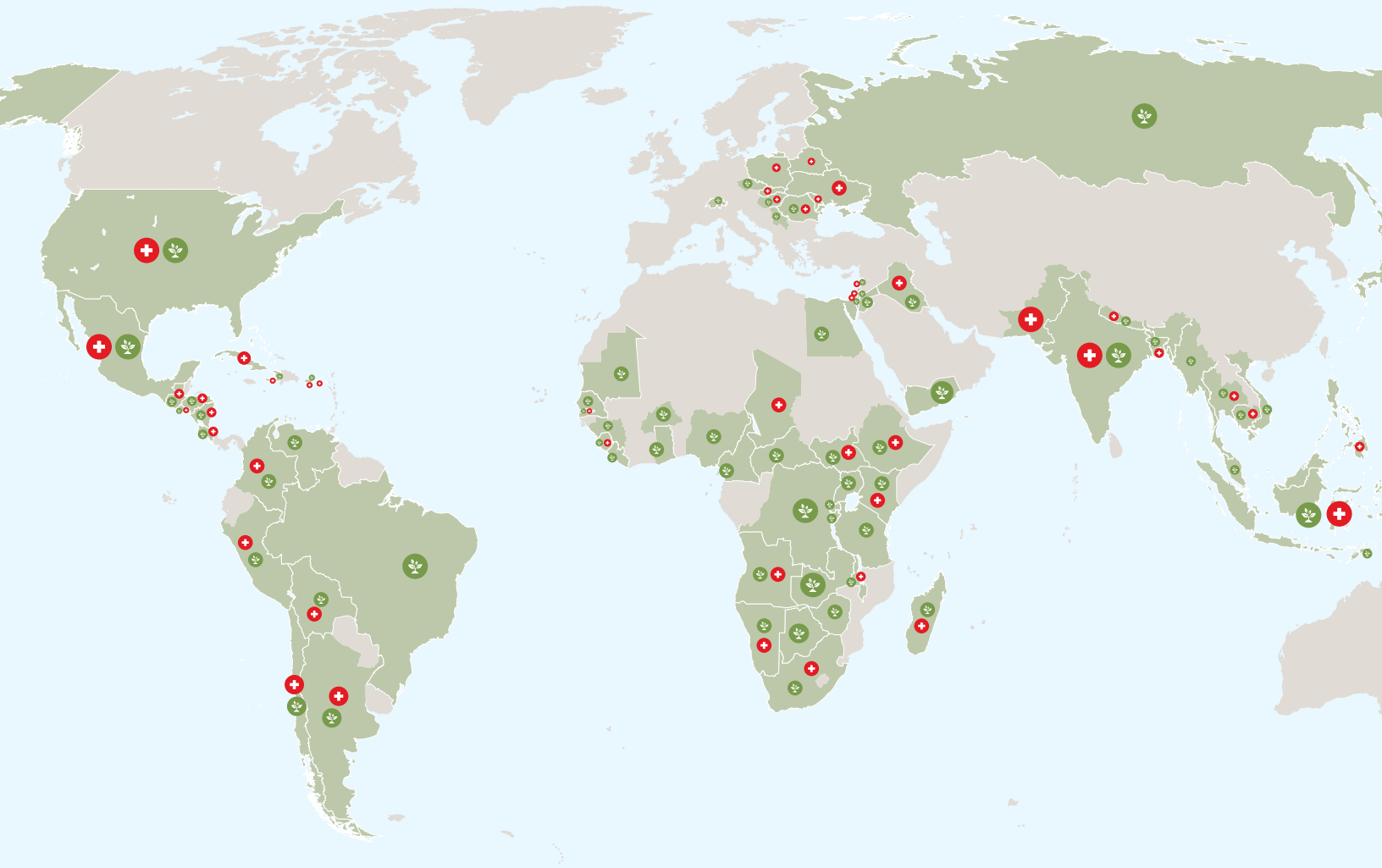
Julie refers to the exhibitions as the “crown” of their success: they gain exposure in person and get a chance to promote their social media pages.



“I thank you very much, Middle East Council of Churches,” said Julie. “We really liked cooperating and working with you. We greatly benefited from the information you presented.” Equipped with new possibilities, these women dream of expanding their market outside Lebanon. Your support of ELCA World Hunger makes these dreams – and so much more – possible. Thank you!



Income-generating activities help families pay for essentials such as food, medical costs and school fees, whereas microloans enable them to start or upgrade small businesses. These and other sustainable solutions to ending hunger and poverty are central to the programs supported by ELCA World Hunger.

# Your gifts at work: 2022



-  ELCA WORLD HUNGER
-  LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE



## ELCA World Hunger

67 countries  
43 states and territories

### INTERNATIONAL

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Angola                   | Madagascar               |
| Argentina                | Malawi                   |
| Bangladesh               | Malaysia                 |
| Bolivia                  | Mauritania               |
| Botswana                 | Mexico                   |
| Brazil                   | Myanmar                  |
| Burkina Faso             | Namibia                  |
| Burundi                  | Nepal                    |
| Cambodia                 | Nicaragua                |
| Cameroon                 | Nigeria                  |
| Central African Republic | Palestine                |
| Chile                    | Papua New Guinea         |
| Colombia                 | Peru                     |
| Costa Rica               | Republic of the Congo    |
| Czech Rep.               | Romania                  |
| Egypt                    | Russia                   |
| El Salvador              | Rwanda                   |
| Ethiopia                 | Senegal                  |
| Ghana                    | Serbia                   |
| Guatemala                | Sierra Leone             |
| Guinea                   | South Africa             |
| Haiti                    | South Sudan              |
| Honduras                 | Switzerland              |
| Hungary                  | Tanzania                 |
| India                    | Thailand                 |
| Indonesia                | The Gambia               |
| Iraq                     | Timor-Leste              |
| Israel                   | Uganda                   |
| Japan                    | United States of America |
| Jordan                   | Venezuela                |
| Kenya                    | Vietnam                  |
| Lebanon                  | Yemen                    |
| Liberia                  | Zambia                   |
|                          | Zimbabwe                 |

### UNITED STATES AND CARIBBEAN

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Alaska               | Mississippi    |
| Arizona              | Missouri       |
| California           | Montana        |
| Colorado             | Nebraska       |
| Connecticut          | New Jersey     |
| District of Columbia | New Mexico     |
| Florida              | New York       |
| Georgia              | North Carolina |
| Hawaii               | North Dakota   |
| Idaho                | Ohio           |
| Illinois             | Oklahoma       |
| Indiana              | Oregon         |
| Iowa                 | Pennsylvania   |
| Kansas               | Puerto Rico    |
| Kentucky             | South Carolina |
| Louisiana            | South Dakota   |
| Maine                | Tennessee      |
| Maryland             | Texas          |
| Massachusetts        | Vermont        |
| Michigan             | Virginia       |
| Minnesota            | Washington     |
|                      | Wisconsin      |

## Lutheran Disaster Response

42 countries  
26 states and territories

### INTERNATIONAL

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Angola   | Kenya  |
| <i>Drought</i>                                 | <i>Refugees, drought</i>                         |
| Argentina                                      | Lebanon  |
| <i>Migrants</i>                                | <i>Conflict</i>                                  |
| Bangladesh                                     | Madagascar                                       |
| <i>Flood</i>                                   | <i>COVID-19, hurricane, drought</i>              |
| Belarus  | Malawi   |
| <i>Conflict</i>                                | <i>Hurricane</i>                                 |
| Bolivia  | Mexico   |
| <i>Hurricane</i>                               | <i>Migrants, hurricane, earthquake, refugees</i> |
| Cambodia                                       | Moldova  |
| <i>Flood</i>                                   | <i>Conflict</i>                                  |
| Chad   | Namibia  |
| <i>Flood</i>                                   | <i>COVID-19</i>                                  |
| Chile  | Nepal  |
| <i>Migrants</i>                                | <i>Flood, earthquake</i>                         |
| Colombia                                       | Nicaragua  |
| <i>Migrants, COVID-19</i>                      | <i>COVID-19, flood</i>                           |
| Costa Rica                                     | Pakistan   |
| <i>Migrants</i>                                | <i>Flood</i>                                     |
| Cuba   | Palestine  |
| <i>Conflict, health crisis</i>                 | <i>Conflict</i>                                  |
| El Salvador                                    | Peru   |
| <i>Migrants, drought, flood</i>                | <i>Migrants</i>                                  |
| Ethiopia                                       | Philippines                                      |
| <i>Drought, conflict</i>                       | <i>Hurricane</i>                                 |
| The Gambia                                     | Poland   |
| <i>Flood</i>                                   | <i>Conflict</i>                                  |
| Guatemala                                      | Romania  |
| <i>Migrants</i>                                | <i>Conflict</i>                                  |
| Haiti  | Sierra Leone                                     |
| <i>Earthquake</i>                              | <i>Flood</i>                                     |
| Honduras                                       | Slovakia   |
| <i>Migrants</i>                                | <i>Refugees, conflict</i>                        |
| Hungary  | South Africa                                     |
| <i>Conflict</i>                                | <i>Drought, flood</i>                            |
| India  | South Sudan                                      |
| <i>Refugees, emergency preparedness, flood</i> | <i>Health crisis, flood</i>                      |
| Indonesia                                      | Thailand   |
| <i>Earthquake</i>                              | <i>Conflict</i>                                  |
| Iraq   | Ukraine  |
| <i>Conflict</i>                                | <i>Conflict</i>                                  |

### UNITED STATES AND CARIBBEAN

Alaska  
*Typhoon Merbok*

California  
*Wildfires*

Colorado  
*Wildfires*

District of Columbia  
*Migration*

Florida-Bahamas  
*Hurricanes Ian, Sally, Dorian and Michael, disaster preparedness, COVID-19*

Georgia  
*Tornadoes, Hurricane Michael*

Kansas  
*Wildfires, COVID-19*

Kentucky  
*Flooding, tornadoes*

Louisiana  
*Tornadoes, disaster preparedness, Hurricane Ida*

Minnesota  
*Tornadoes, severe storms, COVID-19, civil unrest*

Mississippi  
*Water crisis*

Missouri  
*Tornadoes, COVID-19*

Montana  
*Extreme cold*

Nebraska  
*Capacity building*

New Jersey  
*Hurricane Ida*

New York  
*Winter storm, Buffalo mass shooting, migrants*

North Carolina  
*Disaster preparedness*

North Dakota  
*COVID-19*

Ohio  
*Tornadoes*

Oregon  
*Wildfires, disaster preparedness*

Pennsylvania  
*Flooding, Hurricane Ida*

Puerto Rico  
*Hurricanes Fiona and Maria, disaster preparedness, migration, earthquake*

South Carolina  
*Disaster preparedness*

South Dakota  
*Extreme cold, capacity building, severe storm, tornadoes, COVID-19*

Tennessee  
*Tornadoes, flooding*

Texas  
*Disaster preparedness, capacity building, migrants, tornadoes*



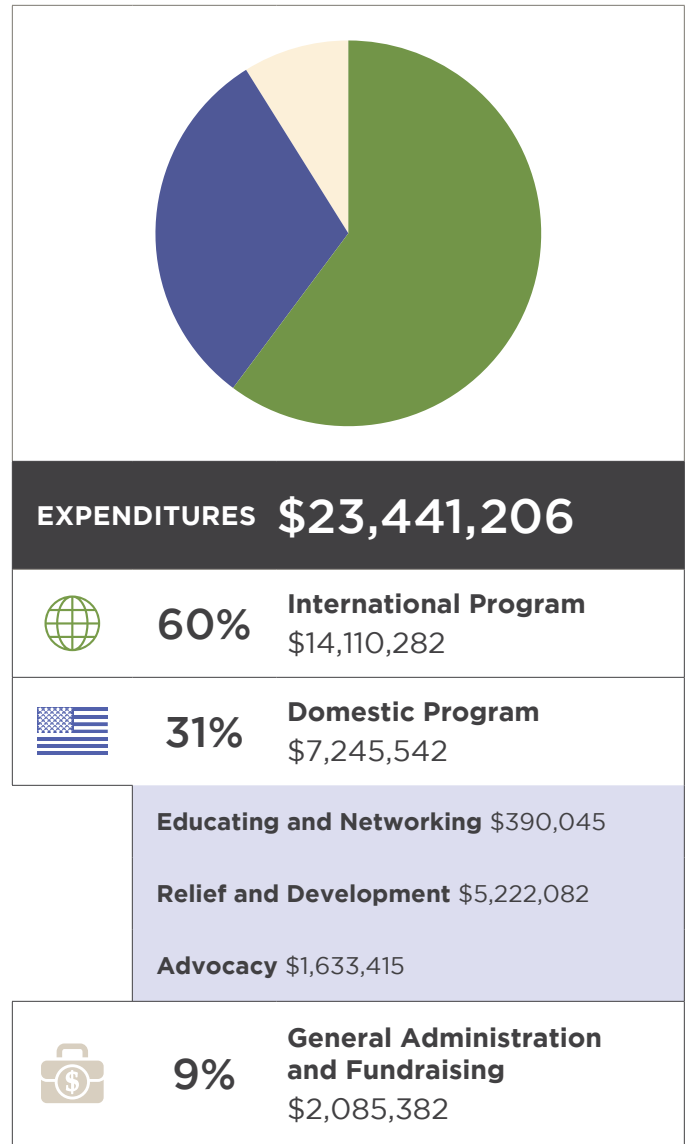
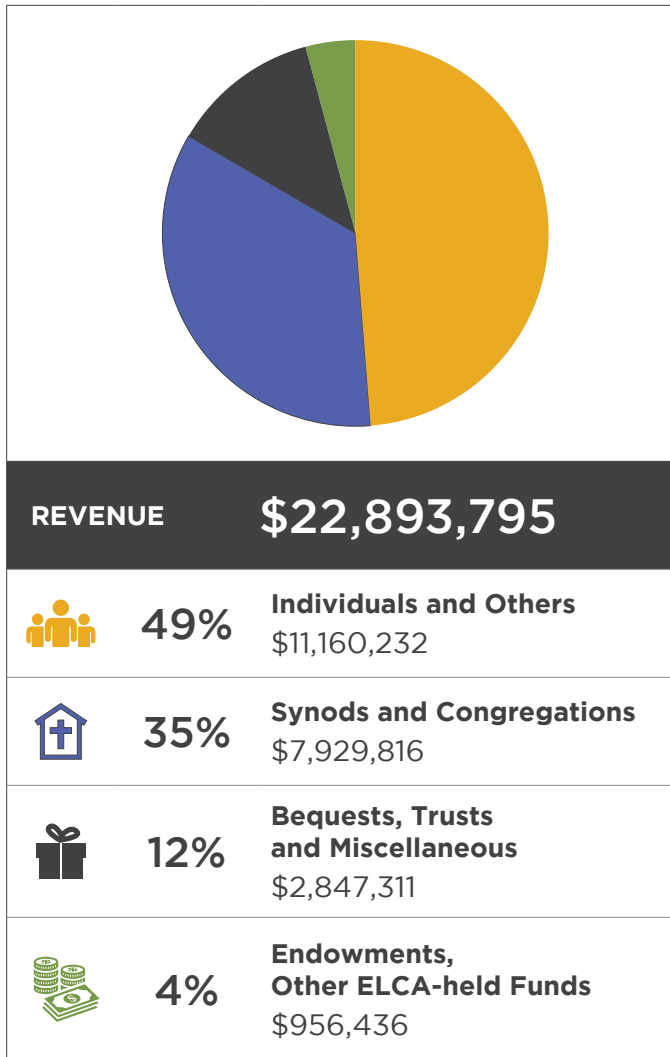
## FAITHFUL ADVOCACY TO RENEW THE FARM BILL

*ELCA World Hunger partner Manna From Heaven, Myra, Ky.*

**T**he farm bill is crucial legislation that addresses hunger in the United States and around the world. It affects federal nutrition programs, environmental practices, trade, foreign aid, rural development and more. With a new farm bill expected in late 2023 we have an opportunity to improve food access and address the root causes of hunger.

The faith community has been instrumental in advocating for nutrition assistance programs here in the U.S. and international aid. The ELCA held listening sessions to inform our farm bill advocacy and will continue to work with partners throughout the reauthorization process in 2023. Learn more by visiting [elca.org/advocacy](https://elca.org/advocacy). Together we can bring our experience, expertise and faith convictions to advance a just world where all are fed.

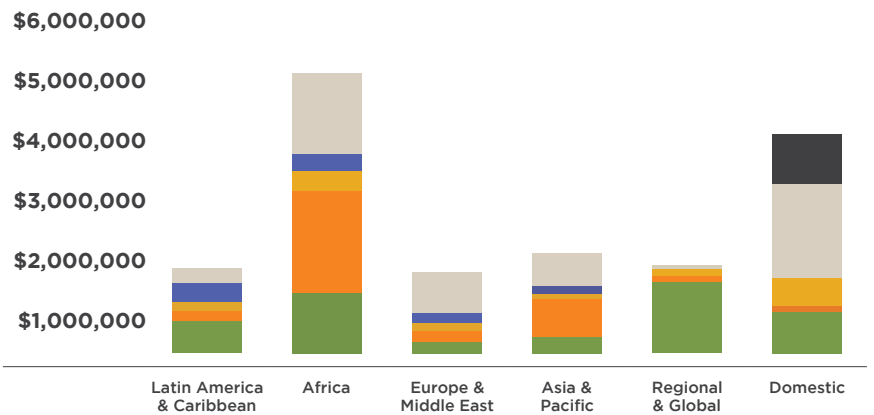
# 2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



**ELCA WORLD HUNGER**  
Grants by Sector







**ELCA WORLD HUNGER**  
Grant Expenditures by Region























*A Ukrainian refugee holds his painting, created in the childcare space of a community center established as part of the Lutheran World Federation's humanitarian response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response fund this project and others like it to support Ukrainian refugees, free of charge.*

# 2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

| REVENUE   |            | \$24,053,531                                       |
|---|------------|--|
| BY SOURCE   |            |  |
|  | <b>60%</b> | <b>Individuals and Others</b><br>\$14,353,887      |
|  | <b>40%</b> | <b>Synods and Congregations</b><br>\$9,699,644     |
| BY DESIGNATION  |            |  |
|  | <b>65%</b> | <b>Specific Designated Support</b><br>\$15,589,391 |
|  | <b>35%</b> | <b>General Undesignated Support</b><br>\$8,464,140 |

| EXPENDITURES  |            | \$15,363,575                                       |
|---|------------|--|
| BY TYPE   |            |  |
|  | <b>65%</b> | <b>International</b><br>\$10,043,240               |
|  | <b>29%</b> | <b>United States</b><br>\$4,390,454                |
|  | <b>6%</b>  | <b>Fundraising and Administration</b><br>\$929,881 |

| EXPENDITURES  |            | \$15,363,575                                       |
|---|------------|--|
| BY FUND   |            |  |
|  | <b>50%</b> | <b>Specific Designated Support</b><br>\$7,654,459  |
|  | <b>50%</b> | <b>General Undesignated Support</b><br>\$7,709,116 |

| HIGHLIGHTED EXPENDITURES  |  |
|---|--|
| UNITED STATES   |  |
|    | <b>34%</b> <b>Severe Storms, Floods and Other Disasters</b><br>\$1,277,500   |
|    | <b>25%</b> <b>Tornadoes</b><br>\$932,900   |
|    | <b>16%</b> <b>Hurricanes</b><br>\$581,720  |
|    | <b>10%</b> <b>Wildfires</b><br>\$351,801   |
|    | <b>7%</b> <b>Program Management Services, Network Consultation</b><br>\$273,313  |
|   | <b>6%</b> <b>Capacity Building</b><br>\$210,665  |
|  | <b>2%</b> <b>Migration Ministries</b><br>\$87,075  |
| INTERNATIONAL   |  |
|  | <b>5%</b> <b>Global Grants</b><br>\$495,000  |
|  | <b>48%</b> <b>Europe and Middle East</b><br><i>(invasion of Ukraine, refugee crisis)</i><br>\$4,884,563  |
|  | <b>19%</b> <b>Latin America and Caribbean</b><br><i>(earthquake, flood, COVID-19, drought, hurricane, migrants — including AMMPARO)</i><br>\$1,851,243 |
|  | <b>13%</b> <b>Africa</b><br><i>(drought, conflict, health crisis, hurricane, refugee crisis)</i><br>\$1,331,104  |
|  | <b>9%</b> <b>Asia</b><br><i>(flood, disaster preparedness, hurricane, refugee crisis)</i><br>\$936,342   |
|  | <b>6%</b> <b>Operations</b><br>\$544,988   |

Note: Disaster-specific gifts are used for immediate relief in the year the gifts are received, but recovery from devastating events requires years of continuous assistance. For this reason disaster-specific gifts are routinely planned for longer-term recovery efforts in the next three to five years and will be reflected in Lutheran Disaster Response's expenses in the years to come, on page 7.

Unaudited financial highlights for the fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2023.

## Women receive life-changing surgery in South Sudan



“I am smiling because I have good health.”

—HALIMA

**W**hen Halima, living in South Sudan’s remote Nuba Mountains, became pregnant, she knew there would be challenges ahead. South Sudan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world; only about 1 in 4 births takes place with a skilled health care worker present. Halima had no access to care during her pregnancy and endured a prolonged labor that ended with the loss of her child and development of a fistula.

In addition to the devastation of losing a child, women with fistulas often suffer urinary or fecal incontinence. They are often shunned by their husbands and community because a fistula is smelly and uncomfortable and makes physical intimacy and childbearing difficult. Halima’s husband abandoned her, but her mother continued to care for her.

Fortunately for Halima, she was referred to Reconciliation Lutheran Community Center and Primary Health Care Clinic, which hosts a world renowned fistula surgeon a few times a year. Your generosity to Lutheran Disaster Response helps the clinic, located in the capital city of Juba, serve its patients at subsidized or no cost, providing critical services to those who cannot afford quality medical care.

After Halima was referred for surgery, the clinic flew her and her mother to Juba. The day before her surgery, Halima was smiling all day. “I am full of hope for good health,” she said. The surgery was successful, and the clinic provided meals, comfortable accommodations, attentive nurses and visits from pastors while she recovered. Halima expressed her gratitude for the care

provided at the clinic, which made her feel truly taken care of. Her recovery took about two weeks, and she continued to be all smiles throughout her time at the clinic: “I am smiling because I have good health.”

Women and girls from across South Sudan are referred to the clinic’s fistula camps. Many who arrive have already been treated, unsuccessfully, and others have very complex cases. The fistula surgeon leads a team of local and regional professionals at the clinic and mentors South Sudanese medical students.

“As a clinic, we strive to love our neighbors and work closely with local leaders to address their needs,” said the clinic’s director. “We hope to continue making a positive impact in South Sudan and beyond.” Lutheran Disaster Response partners with the clinic’s fistula camp to make these much-needed surgeries possible at no cost to patients.

### **ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response work in tandem**

to address the health care needs of the community served by Reconciliation Lutheran Community Center and Primary Health Care Clinic. Whereas ELCA World Hunger supports clinic services – from maternal and child health to chronic health conditions – Lutheran Disaster Response provides additional support at times of specific and urgent need as the community tries to overcome the economic effects of an ongoing political crisis and as women such as Halima suffer with fistulas.



Lutheran Disaster Response shares hope, healing and renewal with people in the United States and around the world whose lives have been disrupted by disasters. Your gifts support disaster survivors as they work to rebuild.

# Rebuilding homes and lives in an earthquake-stricken village

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**E**arthquakes strike without warning, leaving people little time to react. Such events can be catastrophic, especially in areas without adequate infrastructure.

In April 2015 a powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, killing nearly nine thousand people and leaving millions homeless. Dudhpokhari, a village of 400 people in the Himalayan Mountains, was almost completely destroyed.



*Y. Franklin Ishida*

*Lalkumari Gurung*

When the earthquake hit, some people were working in the fields and others were grazing animals. Lalkumari Gurung, now 24, was gathering firewood in the nearby woods.

“When I came back to the village, many people were on the road and were crying,” said Lalkumari. “Houses were all damaged or demolished, and dust was rising. Our house had major cracks and was damaged.”

Though it started raining that night, Lalkumari said, the villagers were too afraid of aftershocks to sleep in their houses. Instead they slept in the road on plastic sheets. Because Dudhpokhari is so remote, initial aid from the government didn’t begin arriving in the village for a week.

Lutheran Disaster Response partnered with multiple organizations in Nepal to address the earthquake. One partner, Lutheran World Relief, was already engaged in Dudhpokhari with an electricity project. After the earthquake Lutheran Disaster Response collaborated with Lutheran World Relief to rebuild the damaged homes in the village, ensuring that they were stronger than before.

As the village was rebuilt, workers implemented construction techniques for greater earthquake resistance. Concrete pillars and horizontal bands were used to strengthen the walls of homes.

“The rebuilding helped us build up our capacity and confidence,” Lalkumari said. “Without any aid, we might have had to rebuild a house, though unsafe.”

Lalkumari said that she was afraid of another large earthquake but that, when the village experiences smaller ones, she feels safe in her rebuilt house. The village faces other challenges, such as unemployment and lack of education, yet residents trust in the sturdiness of their new homes.

“The biggest thing now is the satisfaction that we have been able to rebuild our lives.”

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response transform communities around the world. Completely rebuilding a village after an earthquake takes years, but together we can accompany survivors for the long run. Not only are the houses in Dudhpokhari more resilient, but the people are too.

*Dudhpokhari*

*Louisa Ishida*



# LifeLines

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8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101  
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Spring 2023

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